

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended based on the Examiner's suggested amendment in the last paragraph of page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, except that the planetary transmission is not recited as a "double pinion" transmission. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pang for the courtesy of an interview on August 11, 2005 at which time it was agreed that a claim of this scope overcomes the outstanding rejections based on Morishige, Lee and Takagi.

GB 2 144 814, which was cited in the IDS filed on July 21, 2005, was also briefly discussed during the interview. A formal indication in the next Office Action of the consideration of this reference is respectfully solicited. It is noted that this reference lacks a speed changing mechanism and a forward-drive/ reverse-drive switching device connected in series.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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